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Early Stratemeyer Writings

By John T. Dizer, Jr.



DIME NOVEL SKETCHES NO. 221

ALGER SERIES

Publisher: Street & Smith, 79-89 Seventh Ave., New York, N. Y. Issues: 202 (140, 2nd Series). Dates: November 1915 to December 1927. (2nd Series, February 1928 to June 1933). Schedule: Semi-monthly, later bi-weekly. Size: 7x5". Pages: 300. Price: 10c, later 15c. Illustration: Colored cover illustrating incident in story. Contents: This series published 101 of Alger's stories, a number of Stratemeyer and Optic stories and many other boys books which originally appeared in the New Medal Library.

Early Stratemeyer Writings

By John T. Dizer, Jr.

To J. Randolph Cox be the glory and honor, amen! So much is recorded by so many writers from such flimsy evidence and peddled as gospel about dime novels and boys books that real research should be lauded as such.

The reason for this eulogy is that Professor Cox, searching in the Street & Smith archives at Syracuse University, recently recovered new and concrete evidence concerning the actual writers of many Street & Smith stories. Of particular interest to me are the listings of stories for which Edward Stratemeyer is named as author. These listings vindicate to some extent allusions to Stratemeyer pen names given by Quentin Reynolds in "Fiction Factory." They also show that Louis C. Stratemeyer, step-brother to Edward, was a writer for Street & Smith in 1893. Fifty-one additional stories are now authenticated as written by Edward Stratemeyer, mostly in the 1892-1894 period.

One purpose of this paper is to present the new evidence, draw certain conclusions from it and show publication patterns. A second purpose is to present, for the first time as far as is known, a chronological listing from all sources, of Stratemeyer's writings for periodicals from 1889 through 1903. Hard cover books and stories for females are excluded as being outside the immediate scope of this paper. (A bibliography of Edward Stratemeyer's hard cover books was presented by the author in "Serials and Boys Books by Edward Stratemeyer," "Dime Novel Round-Up," December, 1975). It is expected that this chronological listing is incomplete since information is not yet available on certain magazines and "libraries," and some titles are undoubtedly still unknown.

In a previous article I analyzed the Street & Smith listings of Stratemeyer's pen names for "Good News" based on earlier discoveries by Professor Cox. ("Street & Smith Box M58," "Dime Novel Round-Up," August, 1977.) The new material covers "The New York 5 Cent Library," the "Nick Carter Library" and "The Log Cabin Library."

The Street & Smith records of "The New York 5 Cent Library" credit 21 of the stories to Edward Stratemeyer and 3 to Louis C. Stratemeyer. The "Nick Carter Library" record lists Edward Stratemeyer as the author of 22 Nick Carters, most of which were previously thought to be by Frederic Van Rensselaer Dey. Eight of "The Log Cabin Library" stories are by Stratemeyer.

The Stratemeyer writings in "The New York 5 Cent Library," "Nick Carter Library" and "The Log Cabin Library" are as follows:

Edward Stratemeyer in "The Nugget Library" (S & S)

Nos. 1-167. Aug. 29, 1889 to Aug. 11, 1892

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No.

50. Match; or, The Golden Wedding at Turkey Hollow, by Ned St. Meyer.
(July 17, 1890)
56. Match as a Fakir; or, The Pumpkinville County Fair, by Ned St. Meyer.
(Aug. 28, 1890)

Edward Stratemeyer in "The New York 5 Cent Library" (S & S)

No.'s 1-157, Aug. 13, 1892—Nov. 2, 1895

2. O'Brien, The Bunco King; or, Nat Woods' Capture of an All-Around Crook, by Nat Woods (August 20, 1892)
6. Dead Shot Dave, The Nerviest Sport on Record, by Jim Bowie (Sept. 17, 1892)
13. The Stable Gang's Last Battle; or, Killed for Revenge, by Tom Ward (Nov. 5, 1892)
14. Gentleman Jack; or, From Student to Pugilist, by Jim Daly (Nov. 12, 1892)
16. Dead Shot Dave in Butte; or, Breaking the Green Cloth Record, by Jim Bowie (Nov. 26, 1892)
24. Dead Shot Dave in Spokane; or, A Lone Hand and a High Stake, by Jim Bowie (Jan. 21, 1893)
32. Gentleman Jack's Debut; or, The Ring Champion on the Stage, by Jim Daley (sic) (March 18, 1893)
33. Dead Shot Dave in Tacoma; or, A Fortune at One Throw, by Jim Bowie (March 25, 1893)
36. Gentleman Jack's Tour; or, The Ring Champion and His Enemies, by Jim Daley (April 15, 1893)
40. Mayor Lieder Kranz of Hoboken; or, The Jolly Captain of the Pretzel Schutzen Corp., by Peter Pad (May 13, 1893)
45. Dead-Shot Dave in Denver; or, Failing the Gamblers, by Jim Bowie (June 17, 1893)
46. Gentleman Jack's Mix-Up; or, Settled Outside of the Prize Ring, by Jim Daly (June 29, 1893)
52. Jack and Jerry The Bicycle Wonders; or, Lively times on the Wheel, by Jimmy (Aug. 5, 1893)
53. Dead Shot Dave in Chicago, by Jim Bowie (Aug. 12, 1893)
56. Jack and Jerry's Spurt; or, The Bicycle Wonders' Ride for Life, by Jimmy (Sept. 2, 1893)
57. Dead Shot Dave in Omaha; or, The Limit of the Red and Black, by Jim Bowie (Sept. 9, 1893)
60. Jack and Jerry's Scratch Race; or, The Bicycle Wonders' Strange Discovery, by Jimmy (Sept. 30, 1893)
61. Gentleman Jack's Soft Mark; or, Knocked Out in Three Rounds, by Jim Daly (Oct. 7, 1893)
62. Dead Shot Dave in Kentucky; or, The Blue Grass Region Horse Thieves, by Jim Bowie (Oct. 14, 1893)
64. Jack and Jerry's Tight Squeeze; or, The Bicycle Wonders' Remarkable Pluck, by Jimmy (Nov. 4, 1893)
65. Gentleman Jack's Big Hit; or, Downing the Prize Ring Fakirs, by Jim Daly (Nov. 18, 1893)

Louis Stratemeyer in N. Y. 5c Library)

31. Flip-up Larry, the High Roller; or, New York Under The Electric Light, by Louis Tracy (March 11, 1893)
38. Flip-up Larry's Little Game; or, The High-Roller in the Pool Rooms, by Louis Tracy (April 29, 1893)

58. Nat Wood's Queer Find; or, "R.X.T." The Mysterious Emblem, by the author of "Nat Woods" (Sept. 16, 1893)

Nick Carter Library

Stories by Edward Stratemeyer from the record book in S&S archives

40. The Great Jewel Robbery; or, Nick Carter Among the Hotel Thieves. May 7, 1892.
41. The Fourfold Murder; or, Nick Carter's Clever Work in Florida. May 14, 1892.
43. The Letters on the Floor; or, Nick Carter's Clever Decipher. May 28, 1892.
46. The Gold Brick Swindlers; or, Nick Carter's Great Exposure. June 18, 1892.
67. The Dalton Gang Wiped Out; or, Nick Carter's Deadly Rifle. Nov. 12, 1892
76. A Murder in the Snow; or, Nick Carter's Curious Case. Jan. 14, 1893.
77. Baggage Check #623; or, Nick Carter Among the Hotel Swindlers. Jan. 21, 1893.
78. The Concealed Booty; or, Nick Carter's First Rate Find. Jan. 28, 1893.
79. The \$35,000 Swindle; or, Nick Carter and the Insurance Frauds. Feb. 4, 1893.
83. The Freight Thieves; or, Nick Carter's Expert Exposure. March 4, 1893.
85. The Turkish Bath Mystery; or, Nick Carter After a Slick Pair. March 18, 1893.
99. The Book-Maker's Crime; or, Nick Carter's Accidental Clew. June 24, 1893.
112. Nick Carter Among the Poisoners; or, The Wizard of Death. Sept. 23, 1893.
160. The Violet Ink Clew; or, A Dangerous Woman in the Case. Aug. 25, 1894
166. The Broken Arm; or, A Brace of Cracksmen in a Bowery Robbery. Oct. 6, 1894.
172. The Acquia Creek Train Robbery; or, the \$200,000 Hold-Up. Nov. 17, 1894.
195. The Mystery of the Yellow Cab; or, A Little Set-back for Chick. April 27, 1895.
197. Run Down in Toronto; or, Nick Carter's Work for a Friend. May 11, 1895.
198. The Wizard of the Cue; or, Nick Carter and the Pool Room Case. May 18, 1895.
205. A Confession By Mistake; or, A Helping Hand to an Unwilling Prisoner. July 6, 1895.
207. Nick Carter's Double Header; or, The Ins and Outs of a Boston Sensation. July 20, 1895.
211. From Hotel to Prison Cell; or, A Criminal Globe Trotter's Useless Bribe. Aug. 17, 1895.

Edward Stratemeyer in The Log Cabin Library (Street & Smith)

No.'s 1-456, March 20, 1889—December 8, 1897

180. Cool Dan, the Sport; or, The Crack Shot of Creede, by Capt. Lew James (August 25, 1892)
186. Crazy Bob, the Terror of Creede; or, Cool Dan the Sport Again to the Front, by Capt. Lew James (October 6, 1892)
190. Cool Dan the Sport's Wonderful Nerve; or, The Madman's Matchless Mine, by Capt. Lew James (November 3, 1892)
193. The Collis Express Robbers; or, Hunting Down Two Desperate Criminals, by Capt. Lew James (November 26, 1892)

210. Cool Dan the Sport's Contest; or, Fighting the Creede Combination, by Capt. Lew James (March 23, 1893)
211. Ouray Jack, the Go-it-lively Sport; or, A Winner from the Start, by Capt. Lew James (March 30, 1893)
213. Two Old Sports; or, Pardis in Every Deal, by Capt. Lew James (April 13, 1893)
217. Straight-Flush Lou, the Man from Denver; or, Playing for a Triple Stake, by Capt. Lew James (May 11, 1893)

This material lends itself to some interesting deductions. It shows that Stratemeyer was writing extensively for Street & Smith at least as early as May, 1892. The earliest authenticated Street & Smith story by Stratemeyer up to now has been "The Tin Box Mystery" which appeared in "Good News" starting on April 15, 1893. (It is true that Stratemeyer's "Jack the Inventor" appeared in "Good News" from January 23, 1892 to April 2, 1892, but this story was a reprint from "The Holiday.") It now seems that Stratemeyer had written at least 27 book length stories for Street & Smith before he started writing for "Good News."

This does not agree with Reynold's statement in *The Fiction Factory* (p. 116) that Edward Stratemeyer, a nervous, kindly, near-sighted, stocky man . . . had begun by editing "Good News" . . . However it appears to answer the question as to what experience Stratemeyer had had with Street & Smith, that they would select him as the editor of a major juvenile story paper.

Reynolds also mentions "Jim Bowie," "Nat Woods" and "Jim Daly" as pen names for Stratemeyer. The Street & Smith listing for "New York Five Cent Library" includes all three of them. None of these names had previously been verified.

The discovery of these works raises the question as to what other stories might have been written by Stratemeyer under pen names in the early 1890's. The possible Street & Smith publications between 1890 and 1895 for which Stratemeyer might have written include "Log Cabin Library," "Nugget Library," "Good News," "Nick Carter Detective Library," "New York Five Cent Library" and "New York Weekly." At this time we have quite accurate information on "Log Cabin Library," "Good News," "Nick Carter Detective Library" and "New York Five Cent Library." The "New York Weekly" has not been fully documented. Reynolds says, (*Fiction Factory* p. 116) (Stratemeyer) was ". . . writing serials aimed at women for the "Weekly" under the name of Julie (sic) Edwards."

Serials by "Julia Edwards" appeared from 1890 through 1900 with one serial in 1907. It is not known which of these, if any, were written by Stratemeyer. Information on "Nugget Library" is not yet available.

The appearance of Louis Stratemeyer as the author of three New York Five Cent Library stories in 1893 raises interesting points. It had not been known that Louis Stratemeyer wrote for Street & Smith. It had been believed that the "Louis Charles" stories published in "Bright Days" and also in hard cover were either by Edward Stratemeyer or in collaboration with Louis Stratemeyer. Further research is needed on these points.

Earlier writings by this author and others have listed Stratemeyer's known and deduced contributions to many publications. It now seem useful to organize all known material, except stories for women in chronological order. The following listing includes, therefore, material from many sources. In the interests of clarity only the story title, date, first publication and pen name are given. Where there is a question of authorship the entry is noted as "Not proven." "NCL" for Nick Carter Library and "5cL" for New York

Five Cent Library are used as abbreviations. Additional information on reprint history, source material and authenticating data may be found in previous articles on Stratemeyer in Dime Novel Round-Up and in "Tom Swift and His Friends" by this author.

This listing covers the period from Stratemeyer's first publication in November of 1889 through 1903. The 1903 cutoff was used for two reasons:

1. All except one of his known magazine stories had appeared by that time.
2. From 1904 on, with the formation of the Stratemeyer Syndicate, it becomes increasingly difficult to identify Stratemeyer's personal writings.

Serials and "Libraries" by Edward Stratemeyer—1889-1903

1. Victor Horton's Idea, November 2, 1889-November 30, 1889, by Edward Stratemeyer. (Golden Days)
2. Match; or, The Golden Wedding at Turkey Hollow, July 17, 1890, by Ned St. Meyer (Nugget Library)
3. Match as a Fakir; or, The Pumpkinville County Fair, Aug. 28, 1890, by Ned St. Meyer (Nugget Library)
4. Alvin Chase's Search; or, The Mystery of Cedar Cove, October 11, 1890-December 20, 1890, by Ralph Hamilton. (Golden Days)
5. Richard Dare's Venture; or, Striking Out for Himself, January 10, 1891-March 21, 1891, by Edward Stratemeyer. (Argosy)
6. Jack, the Inventor; or, The Trials and Triumphs of a Young Machinist, April 25, 1891-June 3, 1891, by Edward Stratemeyer. (The Holiday)
7. Clearing His Name, August 22, 1891-October 3, 1891 by Ralph Hamilton. (Golden Days)
8. True to Himself; or, Roger Strong's Struggle for Place, October 17, 1891-January 9, 1892, by Edward Stratemeyer. (Argosy)
9. The Hermit's Protege; or, The Mystery of Wind Ridge, December 19, 1891-February 27, 1892, by Ralph Hamilton. (Golden Days) Not proven.
10. Luke Foster's Grit; or, The Last Cruise of the Spitfire, January 23, 1892-April 2, 1892, by Edward Stratemeyer. (Argosy)
11. The Great Jewel Robbery; or, Nick Carter Among the Hotel Thieves, May 7, 1892. (NCL)
12. The Fourfold Murder; or, Nick Carter's Clever Work in Florida, May 14, 1892. (NCL)
13. Fighting For His Own; or, The Fortunes of a Young Artist, May 21, 1892-July 23, 1892, by Arthur M. Winfield. (Argosy)
14. The Letters on the Floor; or, Nick Carter's Clever Decipher, May 28, 1892 (NCL)
15. The Gold Brick Swindlers; or, Nick Carter's Great Exposure, June 18, 1892. (NCL)
16. Judge Dockett's Grandson, July 9, 1892-September 17, 1892, by Ralph Hamilton. (Golden Days)
17. Reuben Stone's Discovery; or, The Young Miller of Torrent Bend, July 23, 1892-October 12, 1892, by Edward Stratemeyer. (Argosy)
18. O'Brien, The Bunco King; or, Nat Woods' Capture of an All-Around Crook, August 20, 1892, by Nat Woods. (5cL)
19. Cool Dan, the Sport; or, The Crack Shot of Creede, August 25, 1892, by Capt. Lew James. (Log Cabin Library)
20. Dead Shot Dave, The Nerviest Sport on Record, September 17, 1892, by Jim Bowie. (5cL)
21. Crazy Bob, the Terror of Creede; or, Cool Dan the Sport Again to the Front, October 6, 1892, by Capt. Lew James. (Log Cabin Library)

22. Cool Dan the Sport's Wonderful Nerve; or, The Madman's Matchless Mine, November 3, 1892, by Capt. Lew James. (Log Cabin Library)
23. The Stable Gang's Last Battle; or, Killed for Revenge. Nov. 5, 1892, by Tom Ward. (5cL)
24. Gentleman Jack; or, From Student to Pugilist, November 12, 1892, by Jim Daly. (5cL)
25. The Dalton Gang Wiped Out; or, Nick Carter's Deadly Rifle, Nov. 12, 1892. (NCL)
26. The Collis Express Robbers; or, Hunting Down Two Desperate Criminals, November 26, 1892, by Capt. Lew James. (Log Cabin Library)
27. One Boy in a Thousand; or, The Mystery of the Aurora Mine, November 12, 1892-February 4, 1893, by Arthur M. Winfield. (Argosy)
28. Dead Shot Dave in Butte; or, Breaking the Green Cloth Record, Nov. 26, 1892, by Jim Bowie. (5cL)
29. A Murder in the Snow; or, Nick Carter's Curious Case, Jan. 14, 1893. (NCL)
30. Dead Shot Dave in Spokane; or, A Lone Hand and a High Stake, Jan. 21, 1893, by Jim Bowie. (5cL)
31. Baggage Check #623; or, Nick Carter Among the Hotel Swindlers, Jan. 21, 1893. (NCL)
32. The Concealed Booty; or, Nick Carter's First Rate Find, Jan. 28, 1893. (NCL)
33. The \$35,000 Swindle; or, Nick Carter and the Insurance Frauds, Feb. 4, 1893. (NCL)
34. The Freight Thieves; or, Nick Carter's Expert Exposure, March 4, 1893. (NCL)
35. The Turkish Bath Mystery; or, Nick Carter After a Slick Pair, March 18, 1893. (NCL)
36. Gentleman Jack's Debut; or, The Ring Champion on the Stage, March 18, 1893, by Jim Daley (sic). (5cL)
37. Cool Dan the Sport's Contest; or, Fighting the Creede Combination, Mar. 23, 1893, by Capt. Lew James. (Log Cabin Library)
38. Dead Shot Dave in Tacoma; or, A Fortune at One Throw, March 25, 1893, by Jim Bowie. (5cL)
39. Ouray Jack, the Go-it-lively Sport; or, A Winner from the Start, March 30, 1893, by Capt. Lew James. (Log Cabin Library)
40. Two Old Sports; or, Pards in Every Deal, April 13, 1893, by Capt. Lew James. (Log Cabin Library)
41. Gentleman Jack's Tour; or, The Ring Champion and His Enemies, April 15, 1893, by Jim Daly. (5cL)
42. The Tin Box Mystery; or, The Stolen Railroad Bonds, April 15, 1893-June 24, 1893, by Edward Stratemeyer. (Good News)
43. Straight-Flush Lou, the Man from Denver; or, Playing for a Triple Stake, May 11, 1893, by Capt. Lew James. (Log Cabin Library)
44. Mayor Lieder Kranz of Hoboken; or, The Jolly Captain of the Pretzel Schutzen Corp., May 13, 1893, by Peter Pad. (5cL)
45. Dead-Shot Dave in Denver; or, Foiling the Gamblers, June 17, 1893, by Jim Bowie. (5cL)
46. The Book-Maker's Crime; or, Nick Carter's Accidental Clew, June 24, 1893. (NCL)
47. Gentleman Jack's Mix-Up; or, Settled Outside of the Prize Ring, June 29, 1893, by Jim Daly. (5cL)

48. Jack and Jerry The Bicycle Wonders; or, Lively Times on the Wheel, August 5, 1893, by Zimmy. (5cL)
49. Dead Shot Dave in Chicago, August 12, 1893, by Jim Bowie. (5cL)
50. Jack and Jerry's Spurt; or, The Bicycle Wonders' Ride for Life, Sept. 2, 1893, by Zimmy. (5cL)
51. Dead Shot Dave in Omaha; or, The Limit of the Red and Black, Sept. 9, 1893, by Jim Bowie. (5cL)
52. Nick Carter Among the Poisoners; or, The Wizard of Death, Sept. 23, 1893. (NCL)
53. Jack and Jerry's Scratch Race; or, The Bicycle Wonders' Strange Discovery, Sept. 30, 1893, by Zimmy. (5cL)
54. Gentleman Jack's Soft Mark; or, Knocked Out in Three Rounds, Oct. 7, 1893, by Jim Daly. (5cL)
55. Camera Bob; or, The Thrilling Adventures of a Travelling Photographer, October 7, 1893-January 20, 1894, by Edward Stratemeyer. (Good News)
56. Dead Shot Dave in Kentucky; or, The Blue Grass Region Horse Thieves, Oct. 14, 1893, by Jim Bowie. (5cL)
57. Jack and Jerry's Tight Squeeze; or, The Bicycle Wonders' Remarkable Pluck, Nov. 4, 1893, by Zimmy. (5cL)
58. Missing Money; or, The Young Bank Messenger's Discovery, November 4, 1893-January 27, 1894, by Arthur M. Winfield. (Good News)
59. Gentleman Jack's Big Hit; or, Downing the Prize Ring Fakirs, Nov. 18, 1893, by Jim Daly. (5cL)
60. The Electric Air and Water Wizard, November 18, 1893-February 3, 1894 by Emerson Bell. (Good News)
61. Shorthand Tom; or, The Exploits of a Young Reporter, February 3, 1894-April 21, 1894, by Edward Stratemeyer. (Good News)
62. Stolen Gold; or, The Brightest Messenger in Boston, February 17, 1894-May 19, 1894, by Arthur M. Winfield. (Good News)
63. Joe, the Surveyor; or, The Value of a Lost Claim, May 5, 1894-July 28, 1894, by Edward Stratemeyer. (Good News)
64. Larry, the Wanderer; or, The Ups and Downs of a Knockout, August 11, 1894-November 3, 1894, by Edward Stratemeyer. (Good News)
65. The Violet Ink Clew; or, A Dangerous Woman in the Case, Aug. 25, 1894. (NCL)
66. The Schooldays of Fred Harley; or, Rivals for All Honors, September 22, 1894-December 15, 1894, by Arthur M. Winfield. (Good News)
67. The Broken Arm; or, A Brace of Cracksmen in a Bowery Robbery, Oct. 6, 1894. (NCL)
68. The Acquia Creek Train Robbery; or, the \$200,000 Hold-Up, Nov. 17, 1894. (NCL)
69. The Young Auctioneer; or, The Polishing of a Rolling Stone, December 15, 1894-March 9, 1895, by Edward Stratemeyer. (Good News)
70. The Tour of the Zero Club; or, Perils by Ice and Snow, December 29, 1894-March 23, 1895, by Harvey Hicks. (Good News)
71. A Footlight Favorite; or, Born to be an Actor, April 6, 1895-June 29, 1895, by Manager Henry Abbott. (Good News)
72. The Mystery of the Yellow Cab; or, A Little Set-back for Chick, April 27, 1895. (NCL)
73. Run Down in Toronto; or, Nick Carter's Work for a Friend, May 11, 1895 (NCL)
74. The Wizard of the Cue; or, Nick Carter and the Pool Room Case, May 18, 1895. (NCL)

75. Limber Leo, Clown and Gymnast; or, With the Greatest Show on Earth, May 25, 1895-June 29, 1895, by P. T. Barnum, Jr. (Young Sports of America)
76. Joe Johnson, the Bicycle Wonder; or, Riding for the Championship of the World, June 1, 1895-July 13, 1895, by Roy Rockwood. (Young Sports of America)
77. Single Shell Jerry; or, The Rival Oarsmen of Lakeview, June 15, 1895-July 27, 1895, by Captain Ralph Bonehill. (Young Sports of America)
78. A Confession By Mistake; or, A Helping Hand to an Unwilling Prisoner, July 26, 1895. (NCL)
79. For His Honors Sake; or, The Richest Boy Detective in New York, July 13, 1895-October 5, 1895, by Walden F. Sharp. (Good News)
80. Nick Carter's Double Header; or, The Ins and Outs of a Boston Sensation, July 20, 1895. (NCL)
81. Nat Donald, King of the Air; or, The Marvelous Adventures of a Young Balloonist, July 20, 1895-August 24, 1895, by Roy Rockwood. (Young Sports of America)
82. Paul Raymond's Rovings; or, In Quest of Name and Fortune, July 27, 1895-October 5, 1895, by Ralph Hamilton. (Golden Days)
83. The Wizard of the Deep; or, Over and Under the Ocean in Search of the \$1,000,000 Pearl, August 10, 1895-September 14, 1895, by Theodore Edison. (Young Sports of America)
84. From Hotel to Prison Cell; or, A Criminal Globe Trotter's Useless Bribe, Aug. 17, 1895. (NCL)
85. That Coon Rastus, August 24, 1895-November 9, 1895, by Peter (Good News)
86. By Pluck Alone; or, Ralph Nelson's Upward Struggle, August 24, 1895-November 16, 1895, by Harvey Hicks. (Good News)
87. Quarterback Dan, the Football Champion; or, Kicking for Fame and Fortune, October 26, 1895-December 7, 1895, by Captain Young of Yale (st two installments) and Clarence Young (last five installments.) (Young People of America)
88. Poor but Plucky; or, The Mystery of a Flood, November 3, 1895-December 21, 1895, by Albert Lee Ford. (Young People of America)
89. Overhead Steve; or, The Wizard of the Wires, November 16, 1895-February 8, 1896, by Emerson Bell. (Good News)
90. Gun and Sled; or, The Young Hunters of Snowtop Island, November 23, 1895-January 4, 1896, by Captain Ralph Bonehill. (Young People of America)
91. Dot Poy Hans, Nov. 23, 1895-January 25, 1896, by Peter. (Good News)
92. Three Ranch Boys; or, The Great Winthrop Claim, November 30, 1895-February 8, 1896, by Edward Stratemeyer. (Young People of America)
93. A Nobody Schoolboy; or, Backbone Against the World, December 7, 1895-February 22, 1896, by Philip A. Alyer. (Young People of America)
94. A New Year's Hold-Up; or, A Brave Boy's Reward, January 4, 1896, by Albert Lee Ford. (Young People of America)
95. The Island of Caves; or, The Remarkable Adventures of the Bixby Twins, April 1896-June 1896, by Edward Stratemeyer. (Bright Days)
96. Bound to Be an Electrician; or, A Clear Head and a Stout Heart, April, 1896-August, 1896, by Arthur M. Winfield. (Bright Days)
97. The Young Florists of Spring Hill; or, The New Heliotrope, May 1896-July 1896, by Albert Lee Ford. (Bright Days)
98. Ned Purcell, The Boy Engineer; or, The Hero of the "Valley Central,"

- June 13, 1896-September 5, 1896, by Harvey Hicks. (Good News) Not proven.
99. Camp and Diamond; or, The Outing of the Young Victors, July 1896-September 19, 1896, by Captain Ralph Bonehill. (Bright Days)
100. The Schoolboy Cadets; or, Fun and Mystery at Washington Hall, September 5, 1896-October 3, 1896, by Roy Rockwood. (Bright Days)
101. Just from the Farm; or, Don Borden's Metropolitan Adventures, September 5, 1896-October 3, 1896, by Edward Stratemeyer. (Bright Days)
102. Flyer Fred, the Cyclist Ferrett; or, Running Down the Rough and Ready Rascals, September 12, 1896-October 17, 1896, by Roy Rockwood. (Banner Weekly) Not proven.
103. Carl, the Juggler and Magician; or, A Hundred Stage Tricks Revealed, September 19, 1896-October 31, 1896, by Theodore Barnum (Bright Days)
104. The Land of Fire; or, A Long Journey for Fortune, September 26, 1896-November 14, 1896, by Louis Charles. (Bright Days)
105. For Name and Fame; or, Walter Loring's Strange Quest, October 3, 1896-November 14, 1896, by Allen Chapman. (Bright Days)
106. Tom Fairwood's Schooldays; or, The Boys of Riverdale, October 10, 1896-November 7, 1896, by Roy Rockwood. (Bright Days)
107. Balloon Boys; or, Adventures among the Clouds, October 17, 1896-November 21, 1896, by Captain Ralph Bonehill. (Bright Days)
108. The Young Civil Engineer; or, The Perils of the Backwoods, October 24, 1896-December 19, 1896, by Edward Stratemeyer. (Bright Days)
109. Malcolm, the Waterboy; or, A Mystery of Old London, November 7, 1896-December 26, 1896, by D. T. Henty. (Bright Days) Not proven.
110. The Schoolboy's Mutiny; or, Lively Times at Riverdale, November 14, 1896-December 12, 1896, by Roy Rockwood. (Bright Days)
111. Among South Sea Savages; or, The Last Cruise of the Comet, November 28, 1896-January 9, 1897, by Philip A. Ayer. (Bright Days)
112. Always on Time; or, The Young Engineer of the Overland Express, February 13, 1897-February 27, 1897, by Maurice Monroe. (Bright Days) Not proven.
113. Pawnee Bill, the Hero Scout of Oklahoma; or, Wild Adventures in the Wild West, May 14, 1898-July 16, 1898, by Captain Ralph Bonehill. (Golden Hours)
114. May Lillie, Princess of the Prairie; or, Pawnee Bill's Wild Ride for Life, July 23, 1898-September 17, 1898, by Captain Ralph Bonehill. (Golden Hours)
115. The Young Bandmaster; or, Solving a Mystery of the Past, February 11, 1899-April 15, 1899, by Captain Ralph Bonehill. (Golden Hours)
116. Holland, the Destroyer; or, America against the World, November 24, 1900-January 12, 1901, by Hal Harkaway. (Golden Hours)
117. Lost in the Land of Ice; or, Bob Baxter at the South Pole, December 1, 1900-January 26, 1901, by Roy Rockwood. (Golden Hours)
118. Rival Ocean Divers; or, A Boy's Daring Search for Sunken Treasure, January 5, 1901-February 23, 1901, by Roy Rockwood. (Golden Hours)
119. Bob Ready, Reporter; or, The Mystery of the Poisoned Dagger, March 23, 1901-May 11, 1901, by Hal Harkaway. (Golden Hours) Not proven.
120. Brave Larry Barlow; or, The Fire Fighters of New York, May 11, 1901-July 13, 1901, by Roy Rockwood. (Golden Hours)
121. Young Captain Jack; or, The Son of a Soldier, July 6, 1901-September 7, 1901, by Horatio Alger, Jr., completed by Arthur M. Winfield. (Golden Hours)

122. Footlight Phil; or, From Call Boy to Star, December 7, 1901-January 11, 1902, by Manager Henry Abbott. (Boys of America) Not proven.
123. Nimble Nip; or, The Call Boy of the Olympic Theatre, April 4, 1903-April 18, 1903, by Manager Henry Abbott. (Boys of America) Not proven
124. Snow Lodge, December 1903-January 1904, by Edward Stratemeyer. (The Popular Magazine)

This chronological listing, incomplete as it may be, gives us a most interesting perspective on Stratemeyer's early writings.

An immediate observation is the quantity of the serials, "libraries" or full length stories, by whatever title we may wish to describe them. The listing shows a total of 124 stories from 1889 through 1903. In addition to this rather fantastic output Stratmeyer wrote many known shorter pieces for juvenile magazines, served as editor of "Good News" and "Young People of America," and publisher and editor of "Bright Days," and from 1890 to 1896 owned and operated a stationery store in Newark.

The length of these stories varies, but a large number were book length. At least thirty-eight of the juvenile serials were republished in hard cover, commencing in 1894. (Again, for specific details the reader is referred to earlier Round-Ups.)

Stratemeyer also wrote many hard cover books between 1898 and 1903 including 5 of the Flag of Freedom series, the 3 Mexican War series, 3 of the Colonial Series, 2 Minute Boys Series, all 6 of the Old Glory series, 3 of the Pan American series, 7 Rover Boys and at least 10 other juveniles. This totalled 39 published books in 6 years in addition to the approximately 38 hard cover juveniles reprinted from serials as mentioned above. During the same period, he also completed an unfinished book by "Oliver Optic" and 3 unfinished books by Horatio Alger, Jr. He is also sometimes credited with writing several of the "Lt. Lounsberry" titles during this period.

To sum up, in the period from his first story in November, 1889 through 1903, Stratemeyer produced the 124 stories listed above. He wrote in addition 39 juvenile books.

These books, together with the 38 juveniles reprinted from serials, gave him at least 77 published hard cover books in a 10 year period. This is exclusive of the Optic, Algers and Lounsberrys. All of these 124 stories were apparently written by Straemeyer himself.

The publication pattern of this listing ties in quite well with known facts about Stratmeyer's career. His early stories appeared in "Golden Days," "Argosy" and "The Holiday." Only three stories are known for 1890 which means either Stratmeyer wasn't writing, the magazines weren't buying or the stories are not yet known. He had 5 serials (one is "not proven") in 1891 and 19 serials and "libraries" in 1892. Of these 19, 5 were in "Argosy" and "Golden Days" and the other 14 in Street & Smith publications. Of the 32 stories in 1893 and the 10 in 1894, all were for Street & Smith. This was the period when Stratemeyer was editor of "Good News."

In 1895 we find "Young Sports of America." (The name was changed to "Young People of America," supposedly about the time Stratemeyer became editor.) Twenty-three stories appeared in 1895, 12 for Street & Smith, 10 for "Young Sports-Young People" and 1 for "Golden Days." Of the 18 stories appearing in 1896, one was in "Young People of America," 1 (not proven) in "Good News," 1 (not proven) in "Banner Weekly" and 15 in "Bright Days." This, of course, was the year Stratemeyer edited and published "Bright Days," and the evidence confirms it.

During the 1897-1903 period, a total of only 13 stories were printed of

which 4 are "not proven." One was in "Bright Days" ("Bright Days" folded in February, 1897), 9 were in "Golden Hours," 2 possibly in "Boys of America" and 1 in "The Popular Magazine." Since this was the period in which Stratemeyer also wrote 38 boys books, his total output was still extremely high. It may be noted that only 4 possible stories by Stratemeyer were published by Street & Smith in that period. Street & Smith's "Boys of America" started in 1900 and "The Popular Magazine" in 1903. Stratemeyer is generally thought to have left Street & Smith in 1895 although Reynolds (*Fiction Factory* p. 117) says, "He was also acting as a sort of editor-in-chief for the firm." "He eventually left Street & Smith to start a little series called "The Rover Boys." (The Rover Boys started in 1899.) " . . . during the late 1890's he was just one of Ormond Smith's hired hands—and one of his best." Further research into Stratemeyer's career during the late 1890's is needed.

This record reinforces stories of the tremendous creative power, drive and imagination which Stratemeyer possessed. Additional evidence is given by the story titles. We find mysteries, detective stories, Alger-type success stories, western stories, Indian stories and sport stories of all types. We find stories about a young artist, a young musician, a young engineer, a young firefighter, a young electrician and a young bank messenger, and others with a whole range of backgrounds and occupations. There are science and invention, science fiction, hunting and camping stories, schoolboy and prep school stories and humorous stories. About the only type not shown in this record is love stories. Stratemeyer apparently wrote these as well under "Julia Edwards" and other pen names but, as mentioned earlier, the stories are not well documented and are not included in the listing.

The chronological record seems to show, more clearly than before, Stratemeyer's growth as a writer. The type of stories and the publications in which they appeared all seem to show trends. If nothing else, the record shows the tremendous volume of Stratemeyer's early writings. The impact on the reading public can only be imagined, but it was undoubtedly far-reaching. Small wonder that this creative drive led to the formation of the Stratemeyer Syndicate and the unparalleled production of juvenile series books.

The End

TWO different Vol. 1 No. 1's by Gilbert Patten Corp.

"SWIFT STORY MAGAZINE" "It Fits Your Pocket" November 1930
(Has story by Earl Stanley Gardner)

"THE POCKET MAGAZINE" "It Fits Your Pocket" December 1930

Both by Gilbert Patten Corp. Both have prefaces by Gilbert Patten.
Paper back, 128 pages each.

If interested, make an offer.

H. W. Miller

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Lawrence, KS 66044

WANTED

Dime novels by Buffalo Bill. There were quite a few in Beadles Dime and Half Dime Library that I do not have. I would appreciate any quotes.

James H. Wilson, USL Box 41096, Lafayette, La, 70504

THE WINNETKA GRADED BOOK LIST AND ITS SUPPLEMENT

By Deidre Johnson

Occasionally, when reading articles on the popularity of children's series books, I would run across references to the "Winnetka Graded Book List" and/or its supplement. What I didn't run across was an explanation of what the booklist was, or what books were listed.

I have finally found copies of the "Winnetka Graded Book List" and its supplement and answered my own questions. For the curious, the WGBL came from a 1924-1925 survey of 36,750 children across the nation. The study was an attempt to generate a booklist of popular, good books, by finding out what children read. 35 schools and/or school systems were involved: six from Michigan; five from Illinois; five from Wisconsin; two each from Iowa, Indiana, Ohio, and Massachusetts; one each from Montana, Minnesota, New Mexico, Nebraska, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Maryland, Virginia, and Georgia.

Participating children filled out a "ballot" on each book they read, listing the title, author, publisher, their name, age, sex, school, grade, and teacher, then rated the books and described them. The four ratings were "One of the best books I ever read;" "A good book, I like it;" "Not so very interesting;" and "I don't like it." The children were also given reading tests to establish their reading level, and this was added to the ballots.

Approximately 100,000 ballots were returned, covering over 9,000 books. 796 of these books received over 25 ballots each. They were then rated by 13 librarians, as either "Of unquestionable literary merit;" "Valuable for the list, although not of high literary quality;" "Not recommended—because of low literary value;" or "Not recommended—because of subject content." ("The Hounds of the Baskervilles" and "The Harvester" were used as examples of the last classification; the series books fell into the third category.)

110 of the 796 books were rated "not recommended" by three-fourths of the librarians and were not included in the WGBL, but were printed in a 22-page, mimeographed supplement. The remaining books appeared in the WGBL, organized by grade level and popularity.

What books made the supplement? The series books, of course—most noticeably, the Bobbsey Twins, Tom Swift, and the "Little Maid" books. Also included were titles by Zane Grey, Augusta Seaman, Gene Stratton-Porter—the latter done in by content, rather than literary value, it appears.

How popular were these books compared to the books on the regular list? A formula was developed for rating the books' popularity: the number of children who read the book multiplied by the number of different cities the children lived in. (This measured the book's general popularity rather than merely regional attraction.) The resulting figure was divided by ten. The top ten WGBL titles, with their ratings, are listed below.

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| Tom Sawyer | 2272 |
| Heidi | 1848 |
| Little Women | 1829 |
| Black Beauty | 1450 |
| Pinnocchio | 1178 |
| Hans Brinker | 1023 |
| Story of Dr. Doolittle | 962 |
| Little Lame Prince | 957 |
| Huckleberry Finn | 952 |
| Call of the Wild | 936 |

The five most popular books from the supplement were:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Pollyanna (E. Porter) | 486 |
| Boarded-up House (Seaman) | 399 |
| Bobbsey Twins (Hope) | 345 |
| Girl of the Limberlost (G. Porter) | 308 |
| Freckles (G. Porter) | 220 |

While there is a gap, the difference in numbers can be misleading. "Pollyanna" was actually the 24th most popular book; "Boarded-up House" tied with "Hoosier School Boy" (on the WGBL) for 30th place; and "The Bobbsey Twins" placed 39th. In short, all three fall into the top 5% for popularity.

The rating method was such that it is impossible to determine the most popular author. However, the author with the most titles was Laura Lee Hope, a Stratemeyer Syndicate pseudonym. Seventeen Bobbsey Twins books and "Bunny Brown and his Sister Sue" are listed in the supplement, for a total of eighteen books. This does not prove that she was the most popular author: sixteen of Lucy Perkins' "Twins" books ("Dutch Twins," "Japanese Twins," etc.) are in WGBL, and four of them are in the top 5%, rating considerably above "The Bobbsey Twins." (The Stratemeyer Syndicate was well represented on the list, with 27 titles: the eighteen from above; six Tom Swifts; two Honey Bunches; and one Ruth Fielding.)

It is not the intent of this article to judge whether these books should have been included in the WGBL. Even the author of WGBL's introduction asks,

If we adults do not agree on what books are "literary" should literary merit be a primary determining factor in selecting and recommending books for children? Is it not more important to know what books are likely to be thoroughly enjoyed by children of various ages and degrees of reading ability?(1)

Apparently, the WGBL's answer to the last question was no."

110 titles in the supplement to the "Winnetka Graded Book List":

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| APPLETON, Victor (Stratemeyer Syndicate) | BURNETT, Frances H. |
| Tom Swift and his air glider | Barty Crusoe and his man Saturday |
| Tom Swift and his airship | Editha's burglar |
| Tom Swift and his electric rifle | BURROUGHS, Edgar Rice |
| Tom Swift and his motor boat | Tarzan of the apes |
| Tom Swift and his motorcycle | CALHOUN, Frances |
| Tom Swift and his submarine boat | Miss Minerva and William Green Hill |
| BANTA, N. M., and A. B. Benson | CURTIS, Alice T. |
| Brownies and the goblins | Grandpa's little girls |
| BAUM, L. Frank | Grandpa's little girls at school |
| Land of Oz | Little maid of Bunker Hill |
| BLANCHARD, Amy | Little maid of Massachusetts colony |
| Mabel's mishap | Little maid of Narragansett Bay |
| BURGESS, Thornton | Little maid of old Connecticut |
| Adventures of Reddy Fox | Little maid of old New York |
| Lightfoot, the deer | Little maid of old Philadelphia |
| Mother West Wind's where stories | Little maid of Provincetown |
| | Little maid of Ticonderoga |

CURWOOD, James O.
Baree, son of Kazan
Grizzly king
Kazan

DIX, Beulah
Turned about girls

DOWD, Emma
Polly of Lady Gay Cottage
Polly of the hospital staff

DOYLE, Arthur Conan
Hound of the Baskervilles

DYER, Ruth
Stories from a mouse hole

EMERSON, Alice B. (Stratemeyer
Syndicate
Ruth Fielding of the red mill

FAMOUS, Howard
Marigold's pony

FINLEY, Martha
Elsie Dinsmore

GARIS, Howard
Curly Tops on Star Island

GREY, Zane
Desert gold
Desert of wheat
Heritage of the desert
Ken Ward in the desert
Light of the western stars
Lone Star ranger
Man of the forest
Mysterious rider
Rainbow trail
Riders of the purple sage
To the last man
U. P. trail

GRUELLE, Johnny
Raggedy Ann

HAMMOND, Harold
Pinkey Perkins, just a boy

HOPE, Laura Lee (Stratemeyer
Syndicate)
The Bobbsey twins
The Bobbsey twins and Baby May
The Bobbsey twins at Cedar Camp
The Bobbsey twins at home
The Bobbsey twins at Meadowbrook
The Bobbsey twins at school

The Bobbsey twins at Snow Lodge
The Bobbsey twins at the county
fair

The Bobbsey twins camping out
The Bobbsey twins in a great city
The Bobbsey twins in the country
The Bobbsey twins in the great
West

The Bobbsey twins in Washington
The Bobbsey twins on a houseboat
The Bobbsey twins on Blueberry
Island

The Bobbsey twins on the deep blue
sea

Bunny Brown and his sister Sue

JAMIESON, C. V.
Lady Jane

JOHNSTON, Annie F.
Little Colonel at boarding school
Little Colonel stories
Little Colonel's hero
Little Colonel's house party
Two little knights of Kentucky

KNIFE, E. B. and A. A.
Lost little lady

LAWRENCE, Josephine
Adventures of Elizabeth Ann

MANIATES, Belle
Amarilly of Clothes Line Alley

MAY, Sophie
Little Prudy

MONTGOMERY, Frances
Billy Whiskers

OTIS, James
Ruth of Boston

PORTER, Eleanor H.
Just David
Pollyanna

PORTER, Gene Stratton
Freckles
Girl of the Limberlost
Her father's daughter
Laddie
Michael O'Halloran

PRATT, Mara
America's story for America's
children
American history stories

RINEHART, Mary Roberts
Circular staircase

ROY, Lillian
Polly of Pebbly Pit

SEAMAN, Augusta
Boarded-up house
Crimson patch
Dragon's secret
Edge of Raven Pool
Girl next door
Melissa across the fence
Mystery at number six
Sally Simms adventures it
Slipper point mystery
Tranquility house

SHARP, Evelyn
Who was Jane?

THORNDYKE, Helen Louise
(Stratemeyer Syndicate)
Honey Bunch: her first visit to the
city
Honey Bunch: just a little girl

TWAIN, Mark
Tom Sawyer abroad

WELLS, Carolyn
Marjorie's vacation
Patty Fairfield
Story of Betty
Two little women

Notes

1. Washburne, Carleton, and Mabel Vogel, "Winnetka Graded Book List" (Chicago: American Library Association, 1926), p. 44.

Bibliography

Washburne, Carleton, and Mabel Vogel. "Supplement to the Winnetka Graded Book List." Winnetka, Illinois: Winnetka Individual Materials, Inc. 1926.
———. "Winnetka Graded Book List." Chicago: American Library Association, 1926.

START A DIME NOVEL COLLECTION

For \$10.00 I will send 12 dime novels (complete with covers, but in less than good condition). These are original dime novels, not reproductions. The selection includes some with black and white covers and some with colored covers and will represent 12 different series. My selection only. While they last.

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NOTES

Stanley Pachon writes that an error was made in the information on the Boys Home Library (Dime Novel Sketches No. 220 on the cover of No. 548). He has No. 23 and it is dated March 1890 and issued quarterly at that time. This would make the library quarterly from No. 20 through No. 24 and the date of No. 24, June 1890.

Mori Spinner of 24538 Village Station, Los Angeles, Calif. 90024 would like quotes on Bright Days and Camp and Quarters. Can anybody oblige him?

Dover Press, 180 Varick, New York, N. Y. 10014 has again come through with an excellent paperback edition of a 19th century classic. This time it's "AN AFRICAN MILLIONAIRE." Episodes in the Life of the Illustrious Colonel Clay. \$4.50. Colonel Clay rivals Raffles and Arsene Lupin as a rogue in "anti-detective" fiction.

YELLOWBACK LIBRARY No. 3 (May/June 1981) has a number of good articles including Agent Nine, by Robert L. George, The Sorack Series, by Bob Chenu, A Leo Edwards Imitation, by Rick Crandall, Rantings and Ravings of a Book Collector, by George Holmes and a reprinting of Dime Novel Makes by George C. Jenks, (from The Bookman of Oct. 1904).

RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES—DIME NOVELS, BOYS BOOKS

STILL DOWNRIGHT UPRIGHT, THAT'S NANCY DREW, by Patricia McCormack. Syndicated article about Harriet Stratemeyer Adams and the Nancy Drew stories. Appeared May 8, 1981. (Sent in by Irne Gurman)

AT HOME WITH CLAIR BEE, SUPER COACH, SUPER AUTHOR, by M. S. Goode. A good article on Clair Bee, author of Chip Hilton Series of short stories. Appeared in FAMILY WEEKLY, March 22, 1981. (Sent in by Alex Shaner)

POPPY OTT, JERRY TODD COME ALIVE . . . COLLECTOR'S DISPLAY CAPTURE ATTENTION, by Willis Potthoff. Collectors News, March 1981. An illustrated article on Mr. Potthoff's excellent collection of Leo Edwards books.

ALGER'S RAGS TO RICHES CREED STILL PROVES TRUE, by Michael Cassels. Illustrated article of a telephone interview with Ralph Gardner on the occasion of the publication of his biography of Alger. Hollywood (Fla.) Sun Tattler, Jan. 13, 1981.

ALGER KEPT SECRET FROM HIS PUBLISHERS, by Rebecca Sinkler. Article about Alger on the occasion of the publication of Ralph Gardner's book "A Fancy of Hers." Seattle Times, January 25, 1981.

ALGER PUBLISHERS PLAN TO REISSUE AUTHOR'S WORKS. Anonymous. Article reviewing Ralph Gardner's publication of "A Fancy of Hers." Middletown, N. Y. Sunday Record, Jan. 4, 1981.

PUBLICATION OF RARE NOVELS PLANNED ON ALGER'S BIRTHDAY. Anonymous. Another article reviewing "A Fancy of Hers." Colorado Springs, Gazette-Telegraph, Jan. 3, 1981.

THE HEY DAY OF THE DIME NOVEL, by J. Randolph Cox. Wilson Library Bulletin, December 1980. Excellent article, well illustrated, giving a thumb nail history of dime novels.

LETTERS

Dear Eddie:

I agree with Murray Bishoff's basic premise—that collections should be dispersed and scattered. The holder of a fine collection should make some provision for it—either now or in his (her) will. If, as Murray suggests, DNR would set up a committee to aid collectors in this manner, I'd be happy to serve on it. Incidentally, there are reference books which list in general terms, the holdings of all libraries of any stature. Thus, it should be easy to determine what libraries are interested in dime novels, and if they have the budget for acquisitions of if they rely solely on donations, or whatever.

Harry K. Hudson

Dear Eddie:

Have received the April issue of the Roundup and enjoyed it as always, including your "letters" section. The letter from Murray Bishoff was very interesting, touching as it does on what happens to collections on the death of the interested persons who built them.

One great problem which he touches on is the lack of information available about which colleges or universities have such collections and what interest they evince if they do have them. Though a collector may be willing to donate or will his collection, there is little guidance available on this factor.

Though the recent February issue did not list the membership as is usually the case, past listings have always included many libraries. Could these not indicate what their collections include?

I would also disagree with Mr. Bishoff's expression that he doesn't want more articles on boys books and pulps in the Roundup. His own interest in dime novels is the "hobby horse" he would ride, but a great many of your subscribers would not share his feeling. The wider range of material you publish reflects the interests of your readers, and makes it possible to build your circulation and this maintains the publication in a viable state. I'm sure one of your major problems is to get good articles to publish, and I believe that one reason for not publishing more on dime novels is lack of good material submitted to you.

My own interest is in boys books, but I do also read and enjoy the material you print on dime novels and pulps. It's my feeling that we ought to be more interested in the allied fields of interest, and if not interested, be tolerant of others' interests in them.

Sincerely, Bob Chenu

Dear Ed:

The Roundup sure has changed. Years ago there were lots of ads for old novels like Pluck and Luck, Secret Service, Might and Main, Brave and Bold, Blue and Gray, Do and Dare, Red, White and Blue, Starry Flag, Nick Carter, Buffalo Bill, Diamond Dick, Fame and Fortune. Where are they?

Well, the old timers are gone and so are the books. I still have quite a few of them.

Lou Kohrt

Dear Mr. LeBlanc

I trust this check will indicate my desire to see The Roundup survive the indecent postal rates being inflicted on a helpless public. The Postal Service is an incompetent monopoly destroyer the existence of special publications like yours.

Your readers, I am sure, will remain loyal. For myself, The Roundup occupies a very warm spot in my 71 year old heart. It's a nostalgic connection to my youth.

Sincerely, Joseph Slepian

Dear Eddie:

It hardly seems possible that three years have passed since I first signed up to receive the DIME NOVEL ROUNDUP. I have anxiously awaited the monthly mailings and am enclosing \$25 for another three years. Your efforts, those of Ralph Cummings, and all others associated with writing or producing each issue are greatly appreciated.

I first became acquainted with the Roundup through a book collecting class given at Brown University in Providence, R. I. The enrollment entitled me to use the University's Library. In perusing the card catalog I located an entry for the Roundup. To my amazement the librarian unearthed a whole collection of back issues which I eagerly examined. It was years later that I began my subscription, but having seen the wealth of information in the Brown University collection I was aware of what to expect in the issues I received. Again, I look forward to the scholarship and collector interest toward Dime Novels which I will be fortunate to read for the next three years.

Sincerely, David Moulton

(Brown University, which for a number of years was a steady subscriber, has dropped their subscription. If anyone can convince them to resubscribe, I would appreciate it.)

Dear Eddie:

I think Murray Bishoff has given us a lot to think about in his letter. The perpetuation of our hobby must be faced now. Several years ago, I contacted a major Southeastern University about donating over a thousand boys series books. I never even received a reply. The interest in this literature must be cultivated. How to do this in our fast paced society is a major undertaking. Perhaps a Dime Novel Museum could be established in an appropriate location. Ideally, the revenue from it could subsidize a staff for the museum and research. Many avenues must be explored. Possibly, an endowed chair could be set up at a sympathetic university.

Sincerely, Bob George

Dear Eddie:

Murray Bishoff's letter is very interesting. I suspect that much of the material about which he asks is no longer available, but there's no reason to believe that some of it can't be found. One of the projects for my summer will be to try to write an article describing just what I found at Conde Nast and Syracuse that have proved so helpful to me and ought to prove helpful to others. Another is to complete the Magnet Library listing . . . that's been put off far too long. Of course, by waiting I didn't rush into print before I had seen those card files at Conde Nast or the Account Books at Syracuse.

I also think that some thought ought to be given to what still needs to be done in dime novel research and would be most helpful. I have a number of ideas myself and perhaps others among the readers do as well. Perhaps some sort of coordination could be accomplished along the lines suggested by Murray's letter. It's a vast and somewhat amorphous field, but it needn't be impossible to set up some goals and pull together so much of the information that does exist. I know we've talked about some of this before. Perhaps we can continue and really accomplish something.

Best. Randy Cox

Dear Eddie:

During my search of The Catalogue of Title Entries at the Library of Congress I noted down six dramatic compositions, which I thought might be of interest to you although, of course, you may be aware of them already. Here are the details:

1. Found in No. 394—January 19, 1899.

Clover Farm. A Farce Comedy in Three Acts by Gilbert Patten. Copyright 1898 No. 67905, November 21 by Walter H. Baker & Co., Boston, Mass. 2 copies received to complete the copyright on December 24, 1898.

2. Found in No. 565—May 1, 1902.

Old Sleuth. A Dramatic Composition in Four Acts. Copyright by Hurtig & Seamon, New York, N. Y. Class D. XXc No. 1722, April 7, 1902. 2 typewritten copies received to complete the copyright on April 9, 1902.

3. Found in No. 609—March 5, 1903.

An Innocent Outlaw. Copyright by William Wallace Cook, Marshall, Michigan. Class D. No. 2862, January 14, 1903. 2 typewritten copies received to complete the copyright on February 18, 1903.

4. Found in No. 618—May 7, 1903.

In Double Peril (Near Gettysburg '63). A semi-military drama of the Civil War in Three Acts, adapted from the French by Gilbert Patten. 58p. 12mo. Copyright by Walter H. Baker & Co., Boston, Mass. Class D. No. 5725, Nov. 5, 1904. 2 copies received to complete the copyright on April 28, 1903.

5. Found in No. 706—January 12, 1905.

Wedding Bells. A Comedy in Four Acts, by Gilbert Patten. 69 pages. Copyright by Walter H. Baker & Co., Boston, Mass. Class D. No. 5725, November 5, 1904. 2 copies received to complete the copyright on December 9, 1904.

6. Found in No. 713—March 2, 1905.

Deadwood Dick; or, The Scout of the Plains. 4mo. Copyright by George Hug, St. Louis, Mo. Class D. No. 6210, February 11, 1905. 2 typewritten copies received to complete the copyright on February 11, 1905.

My impression is that the plays for which the copyright was completed by the deposit of typewritten copies may never have been published and/or performed.

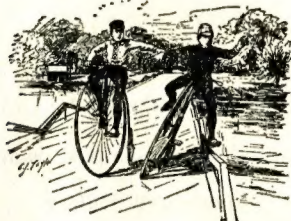
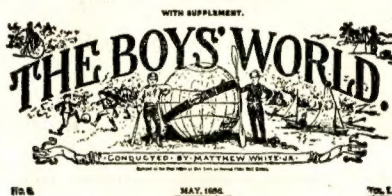
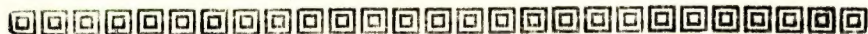
Sincerely, Denis R. Rogers

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- 357. Amos Smith, 11636 East 46th St., Indianapolis, Ind. 46236
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- 359. Bob Cramer, 1106 N. Plym Grove Rd., Schaumburg, Ill. 60195

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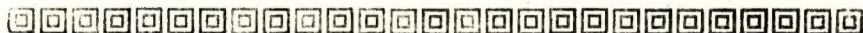
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